

morewisdom

Our first book, *Atomic Ranch: Design Ideas for Stylish Ranch Homes*, has a chapter called 'Hallmarks of the Style' that addresses common questions for those just delving into the topic. There are also several general articles about midcentury preservation linked on the 'advertise: press' and 'resources: enthusiasts' pages of atomic-ranch.com; the Alaska Airlines magazine article by Jane Hodges is a good overview. —ar editor

✱ My first instinct was to demolish the filthy planter that separated the den and the dining room in my recently purchased house (built in 1951 and added to



in 1961). But I realized that with some scrubbing and the addition of plants, it would become a great MCM focal point. I'm so glad I didn't go with my initial plan!

Joan Fisher

Emerson, N.J.

✱ I was so pleased to see Stephen Wilen's Surrey Downs piece in the Spring 2013 issue. Stephen and I have had fun exchanging pictures and stories for a couple of years now. We both live in the same *Better Homes & Gardens* 2809-A-design homes—he in Seattle, and my wife and I in Nashville.

I'm not sure if you recall, but our house appeared on Fall 2008's 'Home Page.' When we bought our place in 2005, we thought it was one of a kind. Now, it seems there are a multitude of them around the country. I'm



glad! That way the wonderful design will survive over time; even if something sad happens to one of them, there's always another still standing somewhere.

Thanks for the great article and wonderful images!

Robb & Spring Houston

✱ I just ordered a two-year subscription and am wondering if that might buy me one free answer. Do you know of a good source of '50s period mailboxes?



Something similar to the above...

We recently bought a 1956 atomic tri-level and are trying to spruce up the exterior; I thought a **vintage mailbox** would be a great addition. After scouring the Internet, we found nothing—no vintage mailboxes for sale and no **reproductions** to be found anywhere. We've even tried offering to buy and replace ones we've seen at other houses, but got no takers.

The closest I found in a new mailbox that looks kind of, sort of vintage and would complement the atomic **aesthetic** is the Vista, cheap and readily available on the web. It would look good souped-up with a two-tone paint job matching the house.

Scott Keyes

Golden, Colo.

The culprit behind Scott and other readers' mailbox lust was Scott Oglevie, a firefighter with a home in Palm Springs who restores vintage appliances and the occasional mailbox in his spare time. He replied, "The blue mailbox I bought for \$10 on eBay; it was listed as an



'old mailbox.' It was brand new, never used, but had a small blemish. The orange mailbox I repainted and restored all together. That one was beige and more ordinary; I just rattle canned and clear coated it, painting it to match the highlights of the house behind it.

"One thing about these mailboxes is that they don't look good mounted on a brick post or wrought iron pole. The slant post really sets it off, so I had to make that, too. These examples were done about four years ago, and the Palm Springs desert sun has taken its toll on them."

The Vista Curbside mailbox that Scott Keyes found is cast aluminum and comes in powder-coated, non-midcentury colors from signaturehardware.com and other sites. While there are some great modern models out there from our advertisers—boxdesignusa.com, modaindustria.com and yliving.com—or the adorable Cadrona from New Zealand, the retro market seems to be wide open. Any other leads, guys?

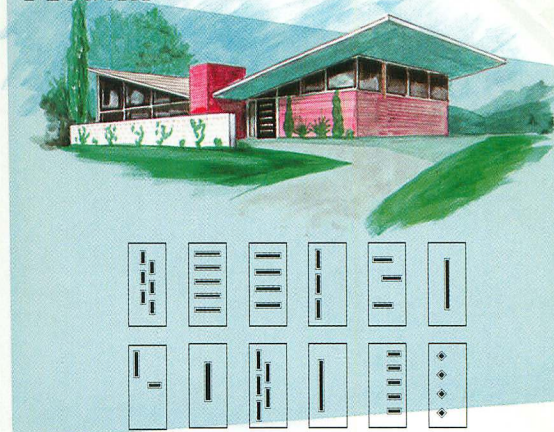
—ar editor

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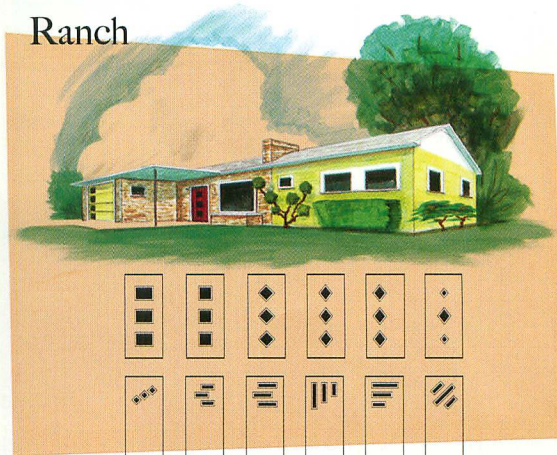
We'll print the good ones.

The right door for the right house.

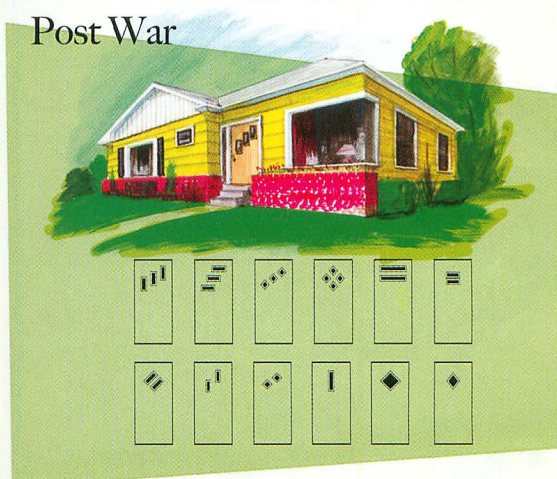
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